Wildlife Resource Survey
Hermit Mine Site
Mohave County, Arizona

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Wildlife Resource Survey
Hermit Mine Site
Mohave County, Arizona

Submitted to:

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Executive Summary

The Hermit Mine Site, at 4900 ± 30 feet elevation in Mohave County, Arizona, was surveyed on 24 and 25 September, 1986. No big game animals and very minimal big game sign were observed. One jackrabbit, one raven, and several flocks of mountain bluebirds were observed.

No significant irreversible impacts to the local environment or long-term impacts on wildlife use of the site are anticipated.

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Hermit Mine Site

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Energy Fuels Nuclear, Inc. (EFN), Denver, Colorado, retained John W. Sigler of Spectrum Sciences and Software, Inc. and W.F. Sigler of Sigler & Associates Inc. (WFSAI) of Logan, Utah, to conduct a wildlife survey in the area of the proposed Hermit Mine Site. The site is located in the SW 1/4 of Section 17, Township 38 N Range 4 West, Mohave County, Arizona.

Both detailed ground and limited aerial surveys were completed in the vicinity of the proposed Mine Site. Aerial reconnaissance by helicopter included the site, surrounding area and the upper portion of Grama Canyon, located 1.5 to 2.0 miles southeast of the proposed Mine Site. The ground reconnaissance entailed an intensive transect search for wildlife or wildlife sign within approximately a 0.5 mile radius, inclusive of the proposed Mine Site.

2.0. SURVEY OBJECTIVES

This survey was designed to develop baseline wildlife resource data and to determine the extent and intensity of wildlife utilization in the vicinity of the proposed Mine Site.

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

The proposed Mine Site has a generally north-northwest aspect although very little relief (estimate less than 30 feet total horizontal elevation change across the site) exists across either the proposed Mine Site itself or the drainage within which it is located.

The drainage area is approximately 200 acres and the proposed Mine Site will occupy 30 acres within it. The site is about 1/3 to 1/2 of the way down the small watershed in which it is located. The drainage above the site has no significant or notable features (e.g., large rock outcrops, tree lines, etc.).

Road access to the proposed Mine Site is presently by approximately three miles of unimproved dirt road off of the Mt. Trumball Road. The proposed access haulage road location would be 1.5 miles long to connect with the Mt. Trumball Road. The proposed new access road would connect to the Mt. Trumball Road, traveling west/northwest from the proposed Mine Site.

4.0 RESULTS

Transects established for wildlife ground reconnaissance are shown on Plate 1, attached.

4.1 Aquatic Resources

A small (approximately 20 feet in diameter) earthen berm pond is located in the northeast portion of the proposed Mine Site. This pond is filled by catchment/containment dikes and a

windmill attached to one of the exploration drill holes drilled by EFN. No aquatic species were observed and none would be expected due to the fluctuating levels and temporary nature of the pond. A second, larger pond (approximately 75 feet in diameter) exists approximately 1/2 mile north of the proposed Mine Site. No aquatic species were observed or are expected in this pond.

4.2 Avian Species

Several flocks of mountain bluebirds *Sialia currucoides* were observed as well as one common raven *Corvs corax* in the general area of the proposed Mine Site. It is unlikely that activity at the site will significantly displace either of these species.

Lack of displacement for either of these species is based on the presence of essentially the same habitat in the surrounding area. Additionally, both of these species are commonly found in association with human activity.

During the aerial survey, not only was the area of the proposed Mine Site examined but also the large drainage area and the upper three miles of Grama Canyon including its westerly arm. In the area surveyed, no suitable raptor nesting sites were observed. In general the walls of Grama Canyon in the upper reaches are of insufficient (less than 100 feet) height to attract nesting raptors.

4.3 MAMMALIAN SPECIES

4.3.1 Small Animal

Only one black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicies*) was observed near the proposed Mine Site, approximately 300 yards northwest of the windmill. No other small animals were observed on the site during ground or aerial observation.

4.3.2 Big Game Animals

No big game animals of any species were observed on or near the proposed Mine Site during ground or aerial surveys. No tracks (possibly due to the recent rain storm) were observed on the site or in the surrounding drainage area. One small mule deer *Odocoileus hemionus* pellet group was noted some 200 yards north of the windmill. One mule deer was observed in Grama Canyon approximately 3.5 miles from the proposed Mine Site.

5.0 CONCLUSION

Due to the non-unique topography, general botanical characteristics and total lack of vegetative cover, it is our opinion that the wildlife resources in the vicinity of the proposed Mine Site will not suffer any long-term irreversible or significant short-term impact as a result of mining activities at the proposed Mine Site.

Although some displacement of wildlife species may occur in the immediate vicinity of the proposed Mine Site as a result of

the removal of the temporary stock pond, the additional water source located approximately 1/2 mile away, as well as the two additional water ponds located within approximately a 3-mile radius, should be more than adequate to provide for wildlife needs.

Limited wildlife utilization of the area is based on the lack of cover in the area surrounding the proposed Mine Site and the lack of animal tracks, sign and sighting. Some potential for displacement of wildlife species exists if utilization of the stock pond on the site is critical. However, an additional water site exists at a distance of approximately 1/2 mile and two additional water ponds are located within a 3 mile radius. (One in the drainage to the south of the site at the head of Grama Canyon and one at the head of the west arm of Grama Canyon.)

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